TENTH

ANNUAL REPORT, &c.,

OF THE

BELFAST DISTRICT ASYLUM,

FOR

LUNATIC POOR,

Being from 1st *April,* 1839, *to* 31st *March,* 1840.

BELFAST:

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TENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE BELFAST DISTRICT ASYLUM,

FOR LUNATIC POOR,

Submitted to the Board of Governors, by the Manager, for the year ending 31*st March,* 1840.

THE NEW CASES admitted during the year amounted to 109, which is 9 more than last year; 39 of these were of the class termed URGENT admissions, being exactly the same number as last reported. The RELAPSES were 5, two less than the year preceding.

OF THE NEW CASES, THERE HAVE BEEN

Discharged, recovered, ...	29
Do., relieved, and on trial, ...	3
Do., dead, ...	9
Still in the house, ...	68
Total, ...	109

The ages of the above were as follow, viz. :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Between 10 and 20, ...	3	2	5
Do. 20 and 30, ...	16	19	35
Do. 30 and 40, ...	12	11	23
Do. 40 and 50, ...	12	13	25
Do. 50 and 60, ...	7	8	15
Do. 60 and 70, ...	3	1	4
Upwards of 70, ...	0	2	2
Total, ...	53	56	109

The following are the causes assigned for insanity, in 92 cases, out of the 109 new admissions of the year :—

I. MORAL CAUSES.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Domestic misfortunes, ...	2	3	5
Grief, ...	3	5	8
Apprehensions relating to a future state, ...	1	3	4
Jealousy, ...	1	3	4
Loss of property, ...	3	0	3
Pride, ...	0	1	1
Poverty and reverses, ...	4	5	9
Remorse, ...	1	0	1
Fright, ...	2	9	11
Fear of want, ...	1	0	1
Religious excitement and enthusiasm, ...	3	2	5
Total, ...	21	31	52
II. PHYSICAL CAUSES.			
Abuse of Mercury and other medicines, ...	3	0	3
Bodily debility, ...	3	3	6
Puerperal affections, ...	0	4	4
Intemperance, ...	6	2	8
Effects of fever, ...	3	3	6
Epilepsy, ...	1	2	3
Functional disease of the uterus, ...	0	1	1
Injury on the head, ...	4	0	4
Hereditary, ...	3	2	5
Total, ...	23	17	40

The old cases treated during the year, amounting to 210 (in which are included the relapses), are thus to be accounted for :—

Discharged, recovered, ...	29
Do., (by desire of friends), relieved, ...	2
Do., dead, ...	20
Remaining in the house, ...	159
Total, ...	210

The criminal lunatics (who are comprised in the new admissions) received, during the year, amounted to 7, viz , 3 males and 4 females. Four were transmitted from County Down Gaol, two from County Antrim Gaol, and one from the Belfast House of Correction. One of the males, from the effects of intemperate habits, attempted to murder his wife, by firing a loaded gun at her (which seriously wounded her in the groin), but was acquitted of the charge, on the ground of insanity. Another, a male also, was charged with horse-stealing, and, after a formal trial, was likewise acquitted, on the ground of insanity.— The remaining cases, of this class, had been guilty of trivial assaults, of one description or other; and, being certified to have been insane at the commission thereof, were, accordingly, transmitted from Gaol to the Asylum, by the Lord Lieutenant, either agreeably to the provisions 1 and 2 Geo. IV., chap. 33, or 1 Victoria, c. 27.

The subject of placing such inmates as the foregoing in these Institutions, is one which, in former Annual Reports, has been particularly dwelt upon.— The inconveniences arising from this practice, it must again be reiterated, are manifold; and the effect produced on the general character of the Asylums, by thus converting them into prison-houses for life for felons, is most pernicious. Now, what is the fact connected with one of the male criminals admitted this year—the one charged with the felony of horse-stealing? Simply this, which was elicited from himself, shortly after his transmission to the Asylum—that he pretended insanity whilst in Gaol, for some time before his trial came on (which he did, principally, by refusing to speak, except now and again

n incoherent sentence or two, as well as by becoming disgustingly filthy
all his personal habits), and this with so much tact and cleverness, as
ompletely to deceive the Medical authorities of the prison, but not so, it
understood, the civil functionaries thereof, who had very strong suspicions
n the subject. Shortly after his formal trial before the Judge of Assize, he
ecovered the use of his speech, and all his other unnatural and irregular
abits disappeared, in well managed order. This man's idea was, that, no
oner did his feigned insanity become removed, than he would be liberated
om incarceration, and thus have escaped the punishment of transportation,
hich he greatly dreaded the infliction of. He is still in the Asylum ;* as is,
lso, the person who attempted the life of his wife ; who, in common with
e horse-stealer, has never manifested any symptom of insanity. From the
rong and repeated representations made to the Executive, and recently, in par-
cular, by the Governors of this Asylum, as well as by those of the majority of
e other District Institutions, who equally feel this grievance, it had been
oped, that, before this, some effective steps would have been taken by Govern-
ent, to correct this increasing evil. It is not denied, but that, in many in-
ances, outrageous and fatal acts have been committed by persons who were, at
e time, of unsound mind, and thus were free from all accountability ; nor is it
nce imagined, that such should not be placed in close and secure custody ;
t the point controverted is the propriety of confining such within the walls
institutions which were, in the first instance, erected (as the preamble of
e Act states) for " the distressed Lunatic poor," and never planned or laid
t, in any respect, in their internal arrangements, for that due restraint and
cure custody, which is generally so absolutely requisite to have at command,
r criminals of this stamp, and who certainly should not be brought into contact
ith those who have committed no legal offence, but who, through the visita-
n of God, have, nevertheless, to be temporarily removed from their family,
d placed in a retreat (or, at least, what ought to be so) calculated to soothe
e " mind diseased," and thus be a means, under Providence, of once more plac-
g reason on its throne, but by associations far different from those which must,
cessarily, be produced in the mind of the convalescent patient, when he finds
at his retreat is not only one set apart for himself, but, likewise, for the
urderer, the robber, and the common assaulter ; thus making him feel, during
e dawnings of a returning state of mental health, that his dispensation has
deed been a heavy one, which, through no fault of his own, has made him
e companion of some of the criminally debased and degraded of his species.
oo often it is said, by the poor, unhappy patient, what evil have I been
ilty of, that thus my friends should have injured my hitherto unsullied cha-
cter, so far as open crime was in question, by having me incarcerated with
iminals? This is no mere imagination, but often does the guiltless con-
lescent so express himself; and thus is a species of excitement kept up,
hich is but ill adapted to favour the removal of an already morbidly excited
te of mind. Again, the immediate relatives of an insane person may, per-
ps, through a strong feeling of the disgrace that will be attachable to them, by
ving a member of their family an inmate of an Institution, in common with cri-
nals, shrink from taking the necessary timely steps to place their afflicted friend
der proper treatment, until compelled to do so, by the uncontrollable violence of
readful malady, which, by long-continued mismanagement at home, has greatly
sened the chances of a recovery being now effected ; for it cannot be too often

* Since this Report was written, this man has been dismissed from the Asylum, Govern-
nt having granted him a free discharge.

repeated, or too widely made known, that any unnecessary delay in the removal of a case of insanity to an Asylum, is fraught with consequences of the most prejudicial nature to the ultimate recovery of the patient. Now, the remedy proposed for all these actual evils—one which has been pressed in the proper quarter—is, that there should be established a Central Criminal Lunatic Asylum for all Ireland, where those who had been acquitted of any offence, on the ground of insanity, should be placed; or otherwise, that, in the respective County Gaols, a portion in each should be set apart for such characters; and thus leave the District Asylums for the "distressed lunatic poor" who are unstained with any legal offence whatever. It has, over and over again, been stated, that the District Asylums are altogether insufficient for the safe keeping of criminals—a fact which has been proved by the ease with which they have escaped therefrom, notwithstanding that every vigilance and every precaution had been used to prevent such an occurrence; and, in nine cases out of every ten, of characters of this description, it almost invariably happens, that they are found, on transmission to those Institutions, to be apparently free from insanity, and, consequently, the more dangerous inmates to have charge of, in every sense of the word. It should also be held in view, that an expense is thus imposed on the District, during the life of those lunatics guilty of capital or other serious offences, which, had they not been acquitted thereof, on the plea of insanity, would have been chargeable to the Government. Considering, therefore, the known and long experienced evils of the existing law, with reference to such persons, it is earnestly to be hoped, that something may, ere long, be done to amend it; and that the respective Boards of Governors of the District Asylums, who have already so ably and laudably exerted themselves in this important matter, will not cease to do so, till an amelioration or total removal of the grievance has been the issue. And here it may be observed, that, even as the law at present stands, it does not appear to be out of the Lord Lieutenant's power to re-convey to prison, or otherwise to dispose of, the criminals transmitted to the Asylum, by his authority. As connected with the foregoing subject, the Manager has been lately favoured with a letter from a distinguished Physician, the Superintendent, for many years past, of an English County Lunatic Asylum, of which the following is an extract:—He says (alluding to former Annual Reports of this Asylum), "The remarks, on the subject of criminal lunatics, are deserving of great attention, and cannot, in my opinion, be too extensively circulated amongst those who have alone the power of obviating the evil. The interesting and instructive case of Linn is, in itself, better than an argumentative volume on the subject. At times, I am placed in a similar situation with yourself, by having criminals sent to the Asylum; when this does occur, I immediately address the Secretary of State on the subject, pointing out to him the impossibility of my being security for their safe detention, as Asylums are erected as a refuge for the unfortunate, and not as a prison for the criminal—thus far I have always succeeded, and the person has been re-conveyed to prison."

The average daily number of patients, during the year, was 217⅓. Last year's daily average was 194⅓. During the past years, the female patients generally exceeded the males, in a small proportion; but, throughout the year now terminated, the males have greatly, in comparison, predominated, the numbers being—males, 123; females, 104. The accommodation, therefore, in the male department of the Asylum, is not only fully occupied, but has not, latterly, been sufficient for the reception, as immediately as could have been desired, of this class, there being, at present, several outstanding cases; thus, in a measure, bearing out what was anticipated in former Reports, that, eventually, it was to be feared the addition made, a few years back, to the building, would be found inadequate to meet the demands of new cases.

Table, shewing the numbers in the Asylum, each year, from its opening :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
31st March, 1830, ...	44	34	78
" 1831, ...	58	61	119
" 1832, ...	66	75	141
" 1833, ...	59	71	130
" 1834, ...	67	78	145
" 1835, ...	81	86	167
" 1836, ...	80	82	162
" 1837, ...	79	90	166
" 1838, ...	85	93	178
" 1839, ...	106	102	208
" 1840, ...	123	104	227

The Institution is capable of receiving 250 inmates altogether, the beds for ales being 123, and for females, 127; so that for the latter there are still cancies for 23; but none for the former.

It is very satisfactory to have to state, that, during the year, the general alth of the patients has been remarkably good. No epidemic, of the slight- t description, prevailed; and, though the deaths that have occurred have been eater than last year, yet the mortality was only of that description which must, cessarily, be expected amongst a class of persons, many of whom are frequently duced to so extreme a state of physical debility and emaciation, on coming into e Asylum, that all that professional skill and unremitting care can do for them ll prove unsuccessful, and death, in the greater number of instances, speedily be e issue, without any evident symptom of functional or organic disease being pre- nt. The deaths amounted to 29, viz., 10 males and 19 females. The ave- ge age of the former was 51 years, the oldest being 67, and the youngest ; and, of the latter, 42 years, the oldest being 75, and the youngest 21.

Analysis of the deaths :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Died of general debility, ...	3	7	10
" general paralysis, ...	3	2	5
" phthisis pulmonalis, ...	0	4	4
" maniacal exhaustion, ...	2	3	5
" dropsical affection, ...	0	2	2
" epilepsy, ...	1	0	1
Died suddenly, ...	1	1	2
	10	19	29

Five of the above were only inmates between five and fourteen days; eight tween two and five months; one between six and ten months; five between ven and twenty months; three between two and six years; and four between ven and ten years.

Those patients who are able to work, are regularly engaged in some useful oc- pation, either in-door or out-door; and, on looking to the table of the numbers generally employed," it will be gratifying to see how comparatively few are evented from taking a share in the industrial pursuits which are going for- rd in the establishment. Out of the total number in the house, 227, 182 are de useful in various ways; the remainder being of that description, whose ental and physical condition is so enervated, as altogether to preclude the possi- ity of their undertaking the simplest employment. Field-labour constitutes the incipal avocation of the men—the great majority of whom had been accustomed act as labourers. Since this Institution was opened, those of this class have been trusted (of course, under proper supervision) with such tools and instruments are usually required in husbandry, as well as in some of the more ordinary des; and no untoward event or any accident has, happily, ever occurred from so do- g. All practical men must be aware of the immense importance of engaging patients

who are at all capable of being so, in cultivating Nature's garden; and, be the usefulness of other occupations as they may, they all sink into insignificance, when compared with the cheerfulness, healthfulness, and freedom, attendant upon agricultural pursuits; nor is this moral restorative means of cure to be prohibited to those who are still the subjects of maniacal excitement, except in its acutest form, when the physical health and strength do not place a barrier in its way, experience verifying the fact, that the more immediately we take measures to direct the thoughts and attention from their perverted course, the greater the chances are of benefiting the sufferer; and no method is more likely to prove efficacious, generally speaking, than that of moderately active employment, in the open air. Many of the female patients, also, are exceedingly good assistants on the grounds; some of them are excellent reapers; and though, when excited, much more ungovernable than the males, and less easily subdued, as well as more disposed to personal violence, yet in their hands, also, such instruments as reaping-hooks, &c., have hitherto been entrusted, with perfect safety. This matter of detail has, in the present instance, been specially alluded to, as there is reason to apprehend, that some Institutions for the insane, admirably well-conducted though they be, on the whole, do not as largely employ their inmates, in all the ordinary occupations of farming, as might be done, and this not only with the happiest results as a mode of cure, but with freedom from danger to all parties. Those patients who are incapable of labour, but who still have the use of their limbs, are taken out, regularly, each day, in the forenoon and afternoon, for a limited period, when the weather permits, to walk through the grounds—a recreation which the greater number of them look forward to, with much pleasure. In the respective divisions of the Institution, there are airing yards and piazzas, in which they are at liberty to move about as much as they please; thus doing away, as far as is practicable, with all appearance of restraint, or of their not being entirely free agents. Amongst such a number of inmates, of course, there are many who, at times, are more or less refractory, as well as dangerous, either to themselves or others—whose habits and movements are of the wildest description; nevertheless, the uninitiated are considerably surprised, when going through the entire range of the building, at, perhaps, not beholding a single patient under the least personal confinement; or, should such be the case, not, probably, three out of upwards of 200, who are not enjoying full liberty. Indeed, it is a constant theme of admiration, with visiters, such a condition of affairs as this, in an Institution where they have prepared themselves to witness sights and hear sounds calculated at once to try the courage of the most stout-hearted; but they depart, as it may be supposed, greatly pleased indeed, to find how erroneous their preconceived ideas were on this head. It is, however, to be stated, that, though, at one period of the day, none may be under restraint, yet, perhaps, at another, there might be some; and, again, that, if a visiter should, at this hour, see all the class termed refractory patients at large, were he to return again, the same day, he might, perchance, see a few that were not. The rule of the Institution is, that no patient is to be put under restraint (which, when necessary, is only done for the shortest time possible, and with the least uneasiness to the maniac), without the express authority of the Manager; and, if the attendants use any violence to those patients under their charge, a heavy fine is, in the first instance, inflicted; and any repetition thereof is visited with immediate dismissal. It is only justice, however, to the attendants, to state, that great humanity and forbearance are exercised by them, on the most trying occasions; and the best proof of this is, that the patients themselves evidence, generally speaking, the kindliest feelings towards them; as well as that dismissals, for misconduct of this, or indeed, any other serious description, have been of the rarest occurrence. It has been asserted, of late, by persons of eminence and, as it is believed, of practical experience, that in no instance need personal restraint be had recourse to, not even with the most refractory and violent of maniacs; but that a system of "surveillance," carried out by an additional staff of attendants, will answer all the purposes of physical restraint. In two Asylums, in particular,

in England, viz., the Middlesex County Lunatic Asylum, at Hanwell, and the Lincoln, has this system been put into operation; and found, it is stated, by the respectable Superintendents thereof, viz., Dr. Connolly of the former (who is not only eminent as a Physician, but, also, as an author), and Surgeon Hill, of the latter, to be productive of the best effects. On the other hand, equally high authority is against the total abolition of restraint, so far as its humanity is in question, but not so as to its practicability. Dr. Corsellis, the intelligent, humane, and very able Director of the West York Pauper Lunatic Asylum, in his Annual Report of this Institution for the present year, thus expresses his opinion on the subject:—"To permit patients, in a high state of excitement, to keep up that excitement by constant muscular action; or, knowingly, to risk the lives of both patients and servants, would be treatment having no more of humanity in it than the name; and it requires but little practical acquaintance with the subject, at once to detect its absurdity. The result of many years' careful attention to this subject has led to the conviction, that a mild and judicious restraint can never be supplied by any 'surveillance.' The presence of any individual is, of itself, sufficient, in many instances, to keep up the excitement; for it is a truth but too general, that maniacs regard all around them as maniacs, and exhaust themselves in vociferation and attempts at violence; whilst force on the one part, and resistance on the other, keep up the unequal contest, ending sometimes in bruises or broken heads." Again, in the last Report of the Dundee Royal Asylum for Lunatics—an Institution, it is to be observed, established as well for the treatment of the wealthy as the poor insane, and one also standing most deservedly high in public estimation, for the humane and superior management of its patients,—the following observations, on this important matter, are to be found:—"In the recent publication of Mr. Hill, of the Lincoln Lunatic Asylum, he asserts, 'That, in a properly constructed building, with a sufficient number of suitable attendants, restraint is never necessary, never justifiable, and always injurious in all cases of lunacy whatever.' But, even allowing the practicability of the measure, whether it be humane and desirable, is a question that appears very problematical. If the mind of a patient can be subdued by the force of intimidation, so as to paralyze his efforts in the hour of maniacal paroxysms, would his condition be more happy, or his welfare more promoted, by being under the influence of terror? Is it better to enslave the mind than enchain the body? May there not be greater benevolence and sympathy in subjecting the members of the body to salutary restraint, than in the exercise of a moral discipline, which will even appear to human feeling burdensome and oppressive? Instances are not unfrequent of patients, when warned by symptoms of approaching paroxysms, requesting to be placed under temporary restraint: and, when the hour of illusion has passed away, are happy in the reflection, that they have been without the power of committing an act which reason and conscience condemn. It sometimes happens, that all the patients of every class in this Asylum, and in every stage of the disease, are free from every kind of restraint whatever; but, as some restraint might occasionally be found necessary among the same number of persons of sound mind, placed in similar circumstances, it is not thought proper, that, in an establishment of lunatics, the life of an individual be placed in jeopardy, or the general comfort of the inmates be disturbed, in support of a theory which seems to aim at ideal perfection, rather than to promote practical utility."

Such, then, are the deliberate, and publicly recorded opinions of the heads of two establishments, many years in operation, and of well-deserved celebrity, as to the inutility, and, in short, inhumanity, of the total abolition of restraint—opinions in which the Manager of this Asylum fully agrees, both as to their entire soundness, as well as to their true humanity and wisdom; and cannot express his own views on the point at issue better than by adopting the same as his own, and that to the letter. The statement contained in the extract from the Dundee Report, of patients request-

ing to be restrained, can be fully corroborated by the occurrence of similar instances in this Institution. On one occasion, there was a young married female, who, at certain periods, had so great an inclination to commit suicide, that she used to beg and entreat, nay, almost go down on her knees in supplication, to have her hands secured, lest that, in an evil moment, when the eye of her nurse might be off her, she would commit the very deed which she so much dreaded and abhorred; and, as an act of mercy, as well as of paramount duty, her hands would be muffed. This poor woman, ultimately, became quite well, and has continued so, she being at home with her family and attending to all her domestic duties most satisfactorily, for a length of time past. Now, in a case such as this, no 'surveillance,' or any other more *ad captandum* than practical means, that could have been had recourse to, would have produced the least effect; or, indeed, could dependence have been placed on any method but that of personal restraint. At the present moment, there is, in the Asylum, a female who is far differently disposed to the above, she having a very strong propensity, in her maniacal paroxysms, to shed, not her own blood, but that of others; and, if there be such a thing as "possession," in the present day, this female doubtless is thus, in a measure, unhappily afflicted; for, when in an excited state, a more demoniac spirit, in conduct and language, could scarcely be paralelled even in the Scripture accounts thereof. She will, at times, plead in extenuation of some violent act she has committed, or attempted to commit, that she could not help it, for that the Devil had her completely in his power. In a case like this, and when under the dominion of such paroxysms, would moral influence—it is seriously asked—have any effect? It is Utopian, in the highest degree, to think so; and to endeavour to practise it, would be nothing short of courting the risk of being morally, if not legally, guilty of a breach of the 6th Commandment, on the part of any Superintendent of an Asylum, who would thus recklessly dare to peril the lives committed to his charge, by carrying into effect so sweepingly wild an assertion, as that "restraint is never necessary, never justifiable, and always injurious in all cases of lunacy whatever"! But, when the same authority, who thus gravely and deliberately propounds so extremely hazardous a system, and advocates the entire safety of carrying into effect what may truly be termed a cruel kindness towards the refractory and dangerous maniac, thus gives, as he states, a "faithful picture" of what has frequently occurred under the system of restraint in England, a different complexion altogether is given to the proposition. Mr. Hill's 'picture' is given as follows:—"A strait waistcoat is brought, a struggle ensues, another keeper arrives; and, in the attempt to put on the jacket, the patient gets very roughly used. He resists, swears, kicks, and bites; the keeper or keepers kneel on his body, thrust their knuckles into his throat, beat him and bruise him, until they succeed in overcoming him. Then, the jacket is tied so tight, that he can scarcely breathe; his legs are fastened together, either with iron or leathern hobbles; and, to sum up all, if he have resisted stoutly, he is chained to a wall, in a small dark room, and the door is closed upon him. At bed-time, instead of being allowed to go to his proper bed, he is thrown upon straw, and his hands and feet are chained to the bedstead." If this be a "faithful picture" of the method adopted in this age of humanity and great social refinement, with refractory patients, in the English Lunatic Asylums, it cannot be too emphatically stated, that such is "never necessary, never justifiable, and always injurious, in all cases of lunacy whatever;" and the sooner it should be exchanged for the total abolition-plan, the better. The picture is a truly horrifying one, and only to be equalled by the account given of a visit to the receptacle for the insane, at Cairo, in the work of a recent clever author,* a member of the medical profession, who, amongst other matters that he witnessed, in this dreadful abode of human suffering and misery, states, that each inmate had "an iron collar riveted about his neck, binding him, by a massive chain, to a ring in the wall, in a den about four feet square." This description bears, unfortunately, too strong a resemblance to Mr. Hill's "faith-

* Narrative of a voyage to Madeira, &c., by W. R. Wilde, Surgeon. Dublin 1840.

ful picture," as to the system pursued in this, the nineteenth century, with refractory patients, in the English Lunatic Asylums—a system which, the sooner exploded, and replaced by the total abolition-plan—fraught though it be with danger—the better, unquestionably, for the patient, and the more creditable to our civilized land. In Ireland, happily, we know nothing whatever of 'chains and iron hobbles,' or even 'small rooms,' in the management of the insane,—our Asylums for this afflicted portion of the community being establishments that are not only ornamental as public buildings, in their respective localities, but an honour to the Government and the country, for the humane and liberal system practised in their entire management—asylums which are proverbial for the care, humanity, and kindness, with which their inmates are treated; proverbial, also, for the great personal freedom all entrusted to them enjoy, which the Reports made to Parliament, annually, by the Inspectors-General, bear the fullest testimony to, in addition to distinguished visiters, who come constantly, and always unexpectedly, to see them, and who go through all their departments, there being nothing to be concealed. Very recently, one of this latter class visited this Asylum, who, on taking his leave, stated, that nothing had given him more pleasure than the witnessing of the almost total freedom from restraint, not more than one or two having their unruly members confined, and this in the mildest form.

The Hot-water apparatus, for warming the day-rooms and corridors, has now been in full operation upwards of a year, and has given the most complete satisfaction. It is not considered, that the apparatus has caused any diminution in the actual consumption of coals; but, it is to be observed, that a much greater space of the building is constantly warmed by it, in the Winter season, than was the case hitherto, when the open fire-places were in use, many of these being only in operation at particular times, or in very cold and damp weather; so that, viewing the apparatus in this way, a saving of coals has undoubtedly been effected.

The expenditure of the year has been a few pounds less than that of last year, which latter was 3,721*l.* 16s 10d; and this 3,719*l.* 16s 0d; making the average annual cost of each patient, *every charge of management included,* 16*l.* 13s 4½d.

The farming operations of the year produced a nett profit of £155 5s 10d. The potato crop, it should be stated, was fully ten tons deficient, for the quantity of ground planted; the article, however, was generally good, and answered the demands of consumption about five months. Full particulars of this department will be found amongst the accompanying statements of expenditure, &c.

Several tables are annexed to this Report, in addition to those given hitherto, which, it is hoped, will not only be found useful in many respects, for present and future reference, but, also, interesting to the inquirer on the statistics of insanity—a subject which, unquestionably, opens a wide field for deep thought, and grave investigation; one which it must be allowed by all, but especially by those in the immediate charge of the insane, to be so replete with the mysteries of Providence, as to make it be most convincingly felt (when witnessing this humbling evidence of Almighty Power), "How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!"

Finally, the Manager would desire to express his high sense of the obligations he is under to the Governors, for their continued support and countenance, thus enabling him, under God, to perform the duties of his office—an office which, though surrounded with many difficulties, and with responsibilities of the most trying and serious description, yet which, hitherto, he humbly trusts, has been discharged faithfully, if not effectively, and, in some wise, to their satisfaction.

ROBERT STEWART, M.D., *Resident Manager.*

At a stated meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asylum, held on Monday, May 4, 1840, the Rev. A. C. Macartney in the Chair,

It was Resolved Unanimously,—That the above Report be received; also, that it be printed and circulated, as usual.

GENERAL

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CASES

IN THE

Belfast District Lunatic Asylum,

Being from 1st *April*, 1839, *to* 31st *March*, 1840.

	Males.	*Females*	*Total.*	*Males.*	*Females*	*Total.*
In Asylum, 1st April, 1839,	107	98	205			
Admitted,	53	56	109			
Re-admitted, having relapsed,	3	2	5	163	156	319
Discharged, recovered,	27	31	58			
Do., by desire of friends, relieved, and on trial,	3	2	5			
Died,	10	19	29			
Remaining in Asylum, 31st March, 1840,	123	104	227	163	156	319

Admitted from each County in same period.

Antrim,	26	25	51			
Down,	29	33	62			
Carrickfergus,	1	—	1	56	58	114

Discharged to each County in same period.

Antrim,	26	30	56			
Down,	13	21	34			
Carrickfergus,	1	1	2	40	52	92

Number remaining from each County, 31st *March*, 1840.

	Males.	*Females*	*Total.*	*Males.*	*Females*	*Total.*
Antrim,	59	46	105			
Down,	62	57	119			
Carrickfergus,	2	1	3	123	104	227

State of cases remaining, 31st *March*, 1840.

Convalescent,	10	10	20			
Considered curable,	28	17	45			
Considered incurable,	85	77	162	123	104	227

Number of Patients generally employed.

ultivating the ground,	60	—	—
eaving Linen, Calico, &c.,	7	—	—
inding for Weavers,	3	—	—
arping for do.,	1	—	—
oe-making and Mending,	2	—	—
amping Water,	8	—	—
veeping Yards, Carrying Coals, &c.,	8	—	—
eaking Freestone, &c.,	8	—	—
inning,	—	29	—
nitting,	—	4	—
aking and Repairing Clothing, Bedding, &c.,	—	20	—
uilting,	—	6	—
ashing in Laundry, Assisting Servants, &c.,	—	26	—
	97	85	182

The following articles were manufactured and made by the Patients, during the year :—

3,628	Hanks Linen Yarn,	60	Pairs Linen Trousers,
54	... Thread,	108	Vests,
945	Yards Plain Linen,	16	Quilts,
243	... Twill do.,	136	Shirts,
270	... Ticken,	71	Shifts,
243	... Druggett,	131	Aprons,
518	... Twill Calico,	60	Petticoats,
501	... Plain do.,	48	Wrappers,
91	... Camlet,	74	Caps,
23	... Chequer,	26	Bedticks,
118	Pairs Stockings,	21	Bolsters,
54	... Leather Shoes,	112	Handkerchiefs,
52	... Listen do. (Soaled),	60	Towels,
32	... Sheets,	22	Table Cloths,
34	... Suspenders,	36	Rollers.

erage number of Patients, daily, during the past year,	217.35.
erage cost of each Patient, per annum, including all charges,	£16 13s 4½d.
erage cost of diet, per head, per day,	5¼d.

Table of the total admissions, discharges, &c., from the opening of the Asylum, June, 1829, *to* 31*st March,* 1840.

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*
nitted (new cases),	461	470	931			
admitted (relapsed do.),	42	40	82			
				503	510	1013
charged, recovered,	228	262	490			
o. relieved, and by desire of friends, on trial, &c.,	52	42	94			
o., and transmitted to other Institutions,	6	1	7			
d,	94	101	195			
				380	406	786
aining in Asylum, 31st arch, 1840,				123	101	227

Table distinguishing the religious persuasions of the total number of patients admitted from the opening of the Asylum, to 31st March, 1840, with centesimal ratios.

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Ratio.*
Episcopalians, ...	124	109	233	23.00
Protestant Dissenters,	207	219	426	42.05
Roman Catholics, ...	172	182	354	34.95
	503	510	1.013	100.

Table shewing the period of residence in the Asylum, how long ill before admission, and the duration of the disease of the Patients dismissed in the course of the year, ending 31st March, 1840.

	Residence in Asylum.						Period ill before admission.						Duration of disease.					
	Recovered.		Relieved, &c.		Dead.		Recovered.		Relieved, &c.		Dead.		Recovered		Relieved, &c.		Dead.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Months.																		
Under 1	...	...	...	...	2	3	7	8	...	...	4	5	...	...	...	...	2	3
1 to 2	3	6	...	...	...	1	3	3	1	1	2	2	4	2	...	...	...	...
2 to 3	5	9	...	1	...	3	4	5	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
3 to 4	2	2	...	...	...	2	1	4	...	...	1	1	1	3	...	...	...	2
4 to 5	6	2	...	...	1	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	3	3	...	1	...	...
5 to 6	3	3	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	2	...	...	2	...
6 to 7	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	3	3	2	...	...	...	1
7 to 8	3	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
8 to 9	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
9 to 10	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
10 to 11	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	...	...	...	...
11 to 12	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
12 to 13	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	1
13 to 14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1
14 to 15	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 to 16	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16 to 17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
17 to 18	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18 to 19	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19 to 20	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
20 to 21	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
21 to 22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
22 to 23	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23 to 24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Years.																		
2 to 3	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	...	1	2
3 to 4	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...
4 to 5	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	2	1	2	1	...	...	...
5 to 6	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
6 to 7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7 to 8	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
8 to 9	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...
9 to 10	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 to 13	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	..	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1
13 to 16	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2
16 to 19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Totals	27	31	3	2	10	19	27	31	3	2	10	19	27	31	3	2	10	19

ummary of the aggregate admissions, discharges, &c, from the opening of the Belfast Asylum, in June, 1829, to 31st March, 1840, with centesimal ratios.

931	New cases admitted, ratio	91.91
82	Relapsed do., ...	8.09
1,013		100.
490	Recovered and discharged, ratio	48.37
94	Relieved, &c., do., ...	9.28
7	Transmitted to other Institutions, ...	0.69
195	Dead, ...	19.25
227	Remaining in Asylum, ...	22.41
1,013		100.

able shewing the centesimal proportions of the total Discharges and Deaths, in NINE *District Lunatic Asylums, in Ireland, made up from their opening, to 31st March, 1839.*

Asylum.	DISCHARGES. Recovered.	Relieved.	Mortality.	Proportion remaining in Asylum.	Period.
Armagh, ...	44.91	29.90	13.75	11.44	1825 to 1829
Belfast, ...	48.22	10.78	18.22	22.78	1829 to 1839
Carlow, ...	45.53	3.50	9.75	41.19	1831 to 1839
Clonmel, ...	37.96	10.20	11.43	40.41	1835 to 1839
Connaught, ...	33.21	9.38	19.14	38.27	1833 to 1839
Limerick, ...	51.57	7.41	14.09	26.93	1827 to 1839
Londonderry, ...	45.21	10.73	20.53	23.53	1829 to 1839
Maryborough, ...	41.19	3.69	12.23	42.89	1833 to 1839
Waterford, ...	31.11	17.77	5.78	45.34	1835 to 1839

comparative table of cures, collected from various Reports of English and Scotch Lunatic Asylums.

Asylum.	Classes of Patients Admitted.	Rate per Cent.	Period.
Dorset,	For Paupers,	40.32	Opening to 1838
Gloucester,	3 Classes of Patients,	45.34	1823 to 1833
Hanwell,	Paupers,	20.98	1831 to 1837
Lincoln,	3 Classes of Patients,	39.83	1820 to 1837
Lancaster,	Do do.,	38.83	Opening to 1839
Maidstone,	Paupers,	20.69	1833 to 1837
Nottingham,	3 or 4 Classes of Patients,	43.43	1812 to 1838
Staffordshire,	Do. do.,	44.90	1818 to 1838
Suffolk,	Paupers,	38.26	1829 to 1838
Wakefield,	Do.,	43.92	1818 to 1839
York Retreat,	For the Society of Friends,	46.45	1796 to 1836
York,	4 Classes of Patients,	31.50	1814 to 1835
Dundee,	3 Do. do.,	20.44	1836 to 1839
Edinburgh,	Paupers,	25.00	1836 to 1839
Glasgow,	3 Classes of Patients,	27.53	to 1838
Montrose,		39.26	1782 to 1839
Perth,	Opulent Patients,	34.68	1827 to 1838

Dietary

OF THE

THE BELFAST DISTRICT ASYLUM,

FOR LUNATIC POOR.

BREAKFAST, AT NINE, A.M.

One quart stirabout, and ...	Males.	Each Morning.
One-third quart new or mixed milk,		
One-and-a-half pint stirabout and	Females.	
One-half pint new or mixed milk,		

DINNER, AT TWO, P.M.

Three pounds potatoes, and ...	Males.	Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday.
One quart soup, ...		
Three pounds potatoes, and ...	Females.	
One-and-a-half-pint soup, ...		
Three-and-a-half pounds potatoes &	Males.	Monday, Friday, and Saturday.
One pint mixed milk, ...		
Three pounds potatoes, and ...	Females.	
One pint mixed milk, ...		

SUPPER AT SIX, P.M , IN WINTER, AND SEVEN, IN SUMMER.

Eight ounces loaf bread, and ...	Males.	Each morning.
One-third quart mixed milk, ...		
Six ounces loaf bread, and ...	Females.	
One-half pint mixed milk, ...		

☞ Those of the convalescent Patients who are actively employed, are allowed four ounces of boiled meat, in addition to the soup, four days in the week. When the state of the patients' health requires it, the diet is changed accordingly ; and any other that may be necessary, such as wine, tea, mutton, &c., &c., is substituted.

An account of the Expenditure on, and the produce of, the Lands of the BELFAST DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM, *for one year—being from 1st April, 1839, to 31st March, 1840.*

Dr.

Expenditure,			
To Farm and Garden Seeds, ...	£16	5	8
" Seed Potatoes, ...	30	4	10
" Manure, ...	16	10	2
" Lime, ...	9	15	0
" Spades and Shovels, ...	4	6	0
" Scythes, &c., ...	0	19	9
" Rakes, &c., ...	0	16	0
" Repairs on Cart, ...	2	6	8
" Cart Harness, ...	1	0	10
" Horse Shoeing, ...	1	10	6
" Bran, ...	3	16	9
" Tithe, ...	3	16	6
			91 8 8
To Balance, ...			155 5 10
			£246 14 6

Cr.

Produce.					
By Potatoes, 880 cwt. (used in the Establishment), and rated at 2s 4d per cwt.. ...	£102	13	4		
" Do. small, and sold for	1	18	2		
				£104	11 6
" Oats, 60 cwt. (used in the Establishment), rated at 7s 6d per cwt., ...				22	10 0
" Wheat, 12 cwt. (used in the Establishment), rated at 11s per cwt., ...				6	12 0
" Hay, 11 Tons (sold), for	33	17	6		
" Do., 5 do. (used in the Establishment), rated at £3 per ton, ...	15	0	0		
				48	17 6
" Straw (Oat), 120 cwt., rated at 1s 6d per cwt.,				9	0 0
" Do. (Wheat), 60 cwt., rated at 1s 4d per cwt.,				5	0 0
" Vegetables (used in the Establishment), rated at				30	0 0
" Do. (sold), ...				20	3 6
				£246	14 6
By Balance, ...				£155	5 10

An Account of Receipts and Disbursements of the BELFAST DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM, *for one year—being from 1st April, 1839, to 31st March, 1840.*

The Charge.

Received from the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury,	£3,454 3 6	
Balance of last account in favour of the Public, ...	190 13 10	
		£3,644 17 4
Received for Hay Sold, ...	33 17 6	
Do. for Linen Yarn do., ...	18 18 0	
Do. for Vegetables do..	20 3 6	
Do. for Small Potatoes do., ...	1 18 2	
Do. Fines from Servants, ...	1 6	
		74 18 8
		£3,719 16 0
Balance in favour of the Public, on 31st March, 1840,		£96 10 4

The Discharge.

Paid for Provisions, ...	£1,782 14 5	
— Clothing, ...	258 13 11	
— Bedding, ...	96 16 2	
— Furniture, ...	78 2 6	
— Stationary, Advertising, and Printing, ...	22 10 4	
— Coals, Soap, Candles, &c.,	249 7 1	
— Medicine, ...	21 9 0	
— Repairs on Building, &c.,	272 17 5	
— Farm & Garden Expenses,	91 8 8	
— Incidental Expenses, ...	54 15 6	
— Insurance, ...	21 17 8	
— Salaries, Wages, &c., ...	672 13 0	
		3,623 5 8
Balance, ...		96 10 4
		£3,719 16 0